

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING GUIDANCE

1. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE PROVIDED DEPT. SPOKESMAN FOR
NOON BRIEFING AUGUST 5, BUT NO QUESTIONS ASKED.

2. Q: WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE WASHINGTON POST
STORY THAT SAXBE THINKS RELATIONS WITH INDIA ARE BETTER
SINCE MRS. GANDHI CRACKED DOWN ON HER POLITICAL OPPONENTS?

A: THE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT ABOUT IMPROVED
RELATIONS WAS WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE STATE OF EMERGENCY
DECLARED JUNE 26. HE WAS SIMPLY REITERATING A POINT HE
HAD PREVIOUSLY MADE ABOUT IMPROVED INDO-US RELATIONS IN
A JUNE 20 SPEECH IN NEW YORK CITY.

3. Q: WELL, HAVEN'T EVENTS SINCE JUNE 26 CHANGED THAT
ASSESSMENT?

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A: OUR PREFERENCE FOR DEMOCRACY IS CLEAR, BUT WE DO NOT SEE THE UTILITY IN PUBLIC COMMENT ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA. AS FAR AS RELATIONS ARE CONCERNED, INDIA IS AN IMPORTANT COUNTRY WITH WHOM WE BELIEVE IT IN OUR OVERALL INTEREST TO HAVE MATURE AND STABLE RELATIONS.

4. Q: WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE INDIAN INDUSTRIES MINISTER AND AMBASSADOR SAXBE SPOKE OF THE U.S. AND INDIA AS THE "WORLD'S TWO LARGEST DEMOCRACIES." DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT THAT?

A: EMBASSY DELHI ADVISES US THAT THESE WORDS WERE USED BY THE INDIAN MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES AND NOT BY AMBASSADOR SAXBE. KISSINGER

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